

21 JAN 1946

893

CONFIDENTIAL
TOP SECRET

GENERAL

1. Italy desires invitation to Atlantic Pact--US Embassy Rome has been unofficially informed by the Italian Foreign Office that the Italian Cabinet unanimously desires that Italy be invited to join the Atlantic Pact. The Foreign Office expressed the opinion, however, that the Italian public is not yet fully prepared to accept prior Italian participation in the Brussels Pact, but that such participation would be a logical sequel to Italian entry into the Atlantic Pact. According to the Embassy, the Italian Foreign Office is fully aware of British and Belgian opposition to Italy's inclusion in the Atlantic Pact, but hopes that the US will support an invitation to Italy. The Foreign Office believes that such support would have "the greatest weight" with the UK--?
2. US views on Italy's inclusion in Atlantic Pact--The Department of State has instructed US Embassy Brussels to inform Premier Spaak that although the US still favors inclusion of Italy in both the Atlantic and Brussels Pacts, the US would accept Italian inclusion in the proposed "Council of Europe" as sufficient evidence of close ties with the Brussels Pact countries to warrant Italy's inclusion in the Atlantic Pact. According to the Department, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff feel strongly that omission of Italy from either the Atlantic or Brussels Pacts is militarily unrealistic. The Department considers that the objectives of avoiding an unfavorable Italian reaction and strengthening Italian ties with the west would not be achieved by: (a) admitting Italy to limited membership in the Atlantic Pact; or (b) issuing a statement that the Pact members would react strongly to any attack on Italy.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

THE C.I.A. HAS NO OBJECTION
TO THE DECLASSIFICATION OF
THIS DOCUMENT.

NO. 028

Document No. 016

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

CLASS. BY

CLASS. DATE

TS

S

Auth:

Date: 17 MAR 1976

By:

028

CONFIDENTIAL
TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

3. Belgian concern over European unity talks--A high Belgian Foreign Office official has informed US Embassy Brussels of his fear that no agreement will be reached on European "union" at the forthcoming Brussels Pact Foreign Ministers meeting, and that real progress toward this goal will thus be postponed for another three months. According to the official, although there is general agreement on a European Council of Ministers, the British still strongly oppose a European assembly as favored by France and Belgium, and propose instead a "European Conference" of delegates voting by country instead of individually.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

4. PALESTINE: UK urges Arab states to seek settlement--
US Embassy London reports that the British Foreign Office has sent a circular message urging the Arab governments to make armistice agreements with the Provisional Government of Israel and then to commence final negotiations, either through the UN Conciliation Commission or directly. According to the Embassy, the British recommended that the Arab states coordinate their policies for this purpose.

- 2 -

TOP SECRET